



Emergency Management  
Fax: (509) 628-2621

## **BENTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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(509) 628-2600**



Southeast Communications Center  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 8/16/2007  
Contact: Candace Andrews  
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TIME: 21:15 p.m.

### **Benton County Fire: Wautoma Road**

Richland, Wash.—A wildland fire that started around 1 p.m. Thursday in northwestern Benton County near Wautoma Road continues to burn in a southeasterly direction; it reached the Hanford Site about 4 p.m.

Benton County has activated its emergency operations center and declared a fire emergency at 6:02 p.m. The County requested and received approval of state mobilization assistance from the Governor.

Fire crews from multiple agencies have responded to the fire. The fire has burned in excess of 10,000 acres as of 8 p.m. State Route 240 is closed from Highway 225 at the south end to Highway 24 at the north end, according to Washington State Patrol.

No injuries have been reported. At this time, no off-site evacuations have been ordered. Winds in excess of 20 miles an hour pushed the fire south and east.

The cause of the fire is unknown at this time.

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